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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/911,039	07/23/2001	Eber W. Nilsen	Polyprobe 34-017- cip con	3228

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EXAMINER

RILEY, JEZIA

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2637

DATE MAILED: 12/12/2002

7

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/911,039

Applicant(s)

NILSEN, THOR W.

Examiner

Jezia Riley

Art Unit

1637

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 November 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-17 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 18-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 3.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election without traverse of Group II in Paper No. 6 is acknowledged.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 18-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 18 and 19 are vague and indefinite because it is unclear what the applicant means by "the" labeled-conjugated nucleotide triphosphate. The unclarity is based on the fact that there is no antecedent basis for "the" labeled-conjugated nucleotide triphosphate.

Claim 20 is vague and indefinite because claim 20 is dependent from claim 1 which is not an elected claim. Claim 21-25 are rejected because of their dependency from claim 20.

Art Unit: 1637

Claims 19 and 23 are vague and indefinite because it is unclear what N is exactly. Does the applicant mean that all the N in the polymer are the same or that each N, which can not form a base pair with the labeled-conjugated nucleotide triphosphate, can be different from each other.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Biolabs product numbers 1317-1321, page 97, 1993/1994.

Oligo d(T)₃₆ for example comprises a repeat region of nucleotides (T) having the formula T(T)₃₄T which is viewed to inclusive of N^t(N^t)_nN^t where n is an integer from 20 to 1000.

6. Claims 18-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Brennan et al. (Patent # 5,403,708).

Brennan et al. reference discloses the preparation of oligonucleotide which comprises a labeled ligation product having different lengths which differ by N nucleotide residues or a multiple thereof thus also reading on the nonhomopolymers of instant claim 19. The detection of the relative position and the type of label in the

Art Unit: 1637

sequence in the nucleotide residues in the heterogeneous ligation product is generally determined by size separating the ligating product coupled with detection of the type of label incorporated in each ligation product of a specific size.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

8. Claims 18-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brennan et al. (Patent # 5,403,708).

Art Unit: 1637

The Brennan et al. reference discloses the general background of the invention as described under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) above. However, Brennan et al. do not state specifically the use of ^{32}P or fluorophores as radiolabels. Phosphorous 32 and fluorescent labels are extremely commonly used in molecular biology as labels to detect nucleic acid sequences, for example. Therefore, it would have been obvious to someone of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize ^{32}P or fluorophores as labels to prepare oligonucleotides having different sequence residues as disclosed by Brennan et al. One would have been motivated to apply this method for obtaining information relating to the nucleotide sequence of one or more members of a first set of target nucleotide residues. In such sequencing methods the labeled ligation product provides information concerning the nucleotide residues in the nucleic acid template with which the labeled nucleotide residue is base paired (Brennan et al. Col. 2-3).

9. No claim is allowed.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jezia Riley whose telephone number is 703-305-6855. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30AM - 5:00PM.

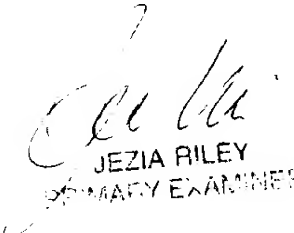
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gary Benzion can be reached on 703-308-1119. The fax phone numbers

Art Unit: 1637

for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-305-3014 for regular communications and 703-308-4242 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0196.

December 9, 2002


JEZIA RILEY
PRIMARY EXAMINER